

BUILDING INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT WASH **SYSTEMS** TO REACH THE UNSERVED

REFLECTIONS ON EQUITY AND INCLUSION

MOLE XXXIV

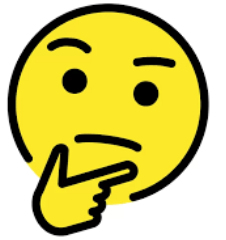
OCTOBER 2023



Overview

- Perspectives on Equity and Inclusion
- Key Drivers Inequity and Exclusion and Barriers to Redress
- Case for Investing in Equity and Inclusion
- The Situation
- Lessons Learnt
- Thoughts to consider - Key Issues/ Questions
- Major Take-Away Points
- Some strategic steps to consider towards achieving Equity and Inclusion in WASH in Ghana

Perspectives on Equity and Inclusion – Major Themes



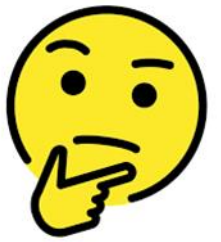
Equity and Inclusion?

- **Equity** is the promotion of **fairness and justice for each individual** that **considers historical, social, systemic, and structural issues** that **impact experience and individual needs**.
- **Inclusion** is the creation of an environment where everyone **shares a sense of belonging, is treated with respect, and is able to fully participate**

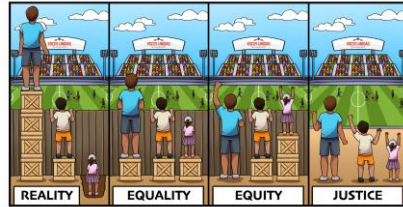
(University of Toronto, 2019)



Perspectives on Equity and Inclusion – Major Themes



Equity.....



- means the fair distribution and sharing of resources (natural or manmade) to benefit everyone equally- comp. **Disparities**
- **goes beyond equality – no longer seen as enough** – state of everyone being the same is considered to be neither possible or enough!
- has *Multiple Drivers (often inter-connected)* - socio-economic, geographical/ environmental, socio-cultural, socio-political, demographic
- is linked to **social justice – irrespective of personal circumstances/ demographics** (ethnic, socio-economic, age, health, **settlement status (legal)??** etc..)- i.e., across above dimensions (*Risk-based thinking*)

Inclusion....



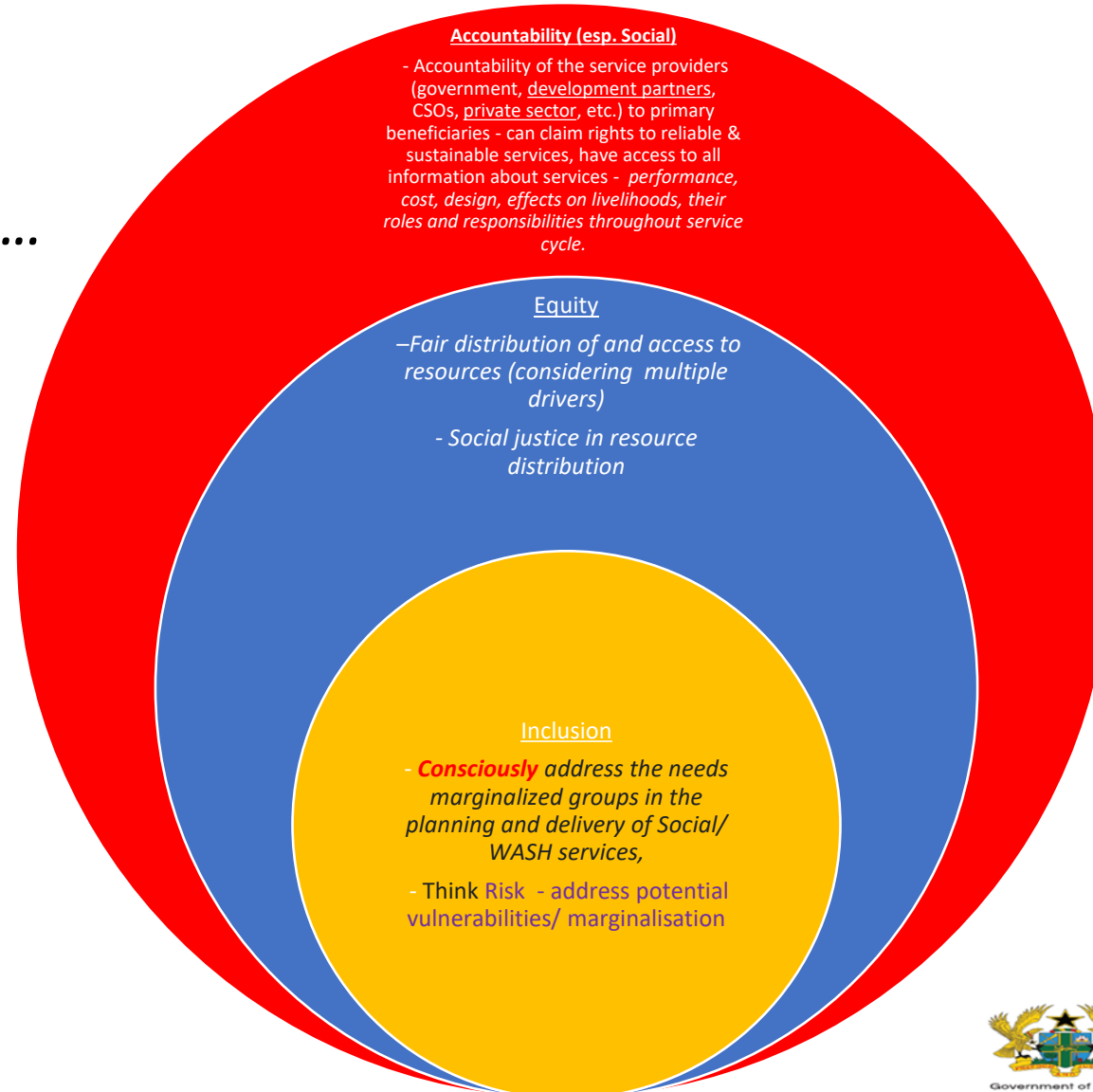
- targets, principally, at addressing **marginalization** (*consciously or unintentionally pushing segments of society to the margins*)
- refers to the process of **consciously** addressing *the needs the marginalised* and unserved communities within, and not separate from, society as a whole
- means considering their needs– *Vulnerabilities/ Barriers (may exist in multiples)* across stages of WASH programming i.e. from conception to evaluation - *geographically hard-to-reach/ serve areas, internally displaced people, informal settlers and slum dwellers, women, aged, children and people living with long-term illnesses including HIV/AIDS. (e.g. Orphaned child female porters - Kayayei)*
- may involve looking at **potential** marginalization effects (*Risk-based thinking*)



Perspectives on Equity and Inclusion – Major Themes

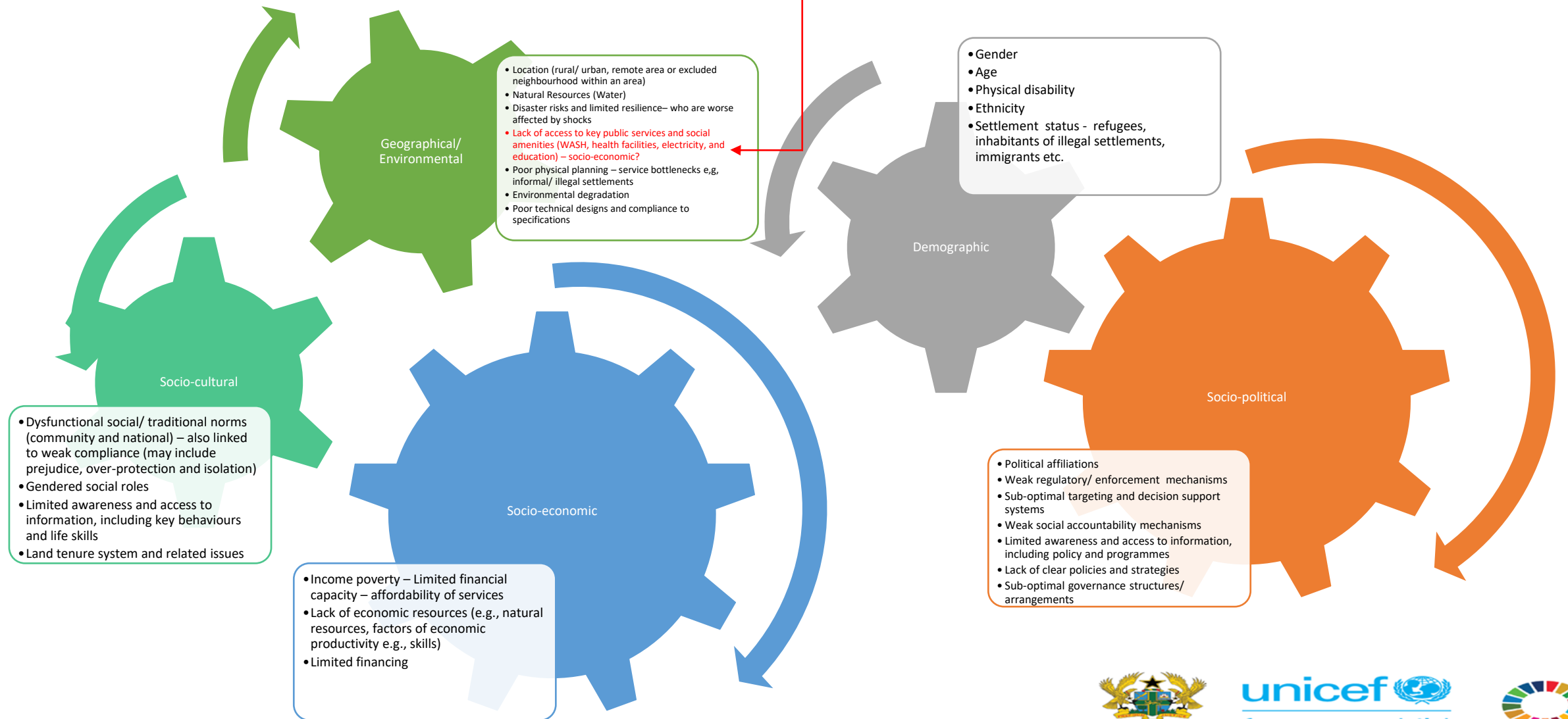


The Link (simplified)....



Key Drivers Inequity and Exclusion and Barriers to Redress

(inter-linked and sometimes also manifest as consequences)



Case for investing in Equity and Inclusion

- Investments and focus on Equity and Inclusion **do** pay off:

Many countries that achieve relatively equal societies demonstrate stronger economic competitiveness. *(Therborn, 2007)*

Social inclusion could also be viewed as an opportunity cost - beyond *social costs*, there is also a *lost opportunity in not including segments of the society*.

Cost of inclusion should not be approached through only economic terms – also includes social costs that need to be carefully examined.

Consequences for not including a part of the society are often significant in the long run - insecurity & instability, high crime rates, brain drain, social conflict, expansion of slums, urban violence, divided societies, and violent conflict, etc. – Case for **Risk-Based Programming (viable long-term investment for sustainable development)**.

- Costs of promoting social inclusion and participation are worth the benefits.

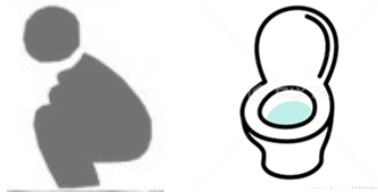
- However, equity and inclusion is, ultimately, a matter of socio-political will:

Advantaged may be vested in maintaining status quo, or blind-sided.

Building awareness around costs the costs and benefits of equity and inclusion is crucial.

Situation - Country WASH Situation & Vision, Ghana

Eliminate Open Defecation and achieve Universal Access to Affordable Basic Sanitation by 2030



2020

18%

25%

Universal Handwashing by 2030



Limited or No Service (2021*) 58%

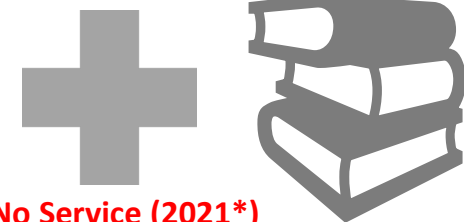


Universal, Equitable Access to Safe and Affordable Drinking Water by 2030 (Basic Services)



2020
88% (Rural 74%)
37.4% (Urban 51.5%)
use sachet water as main source

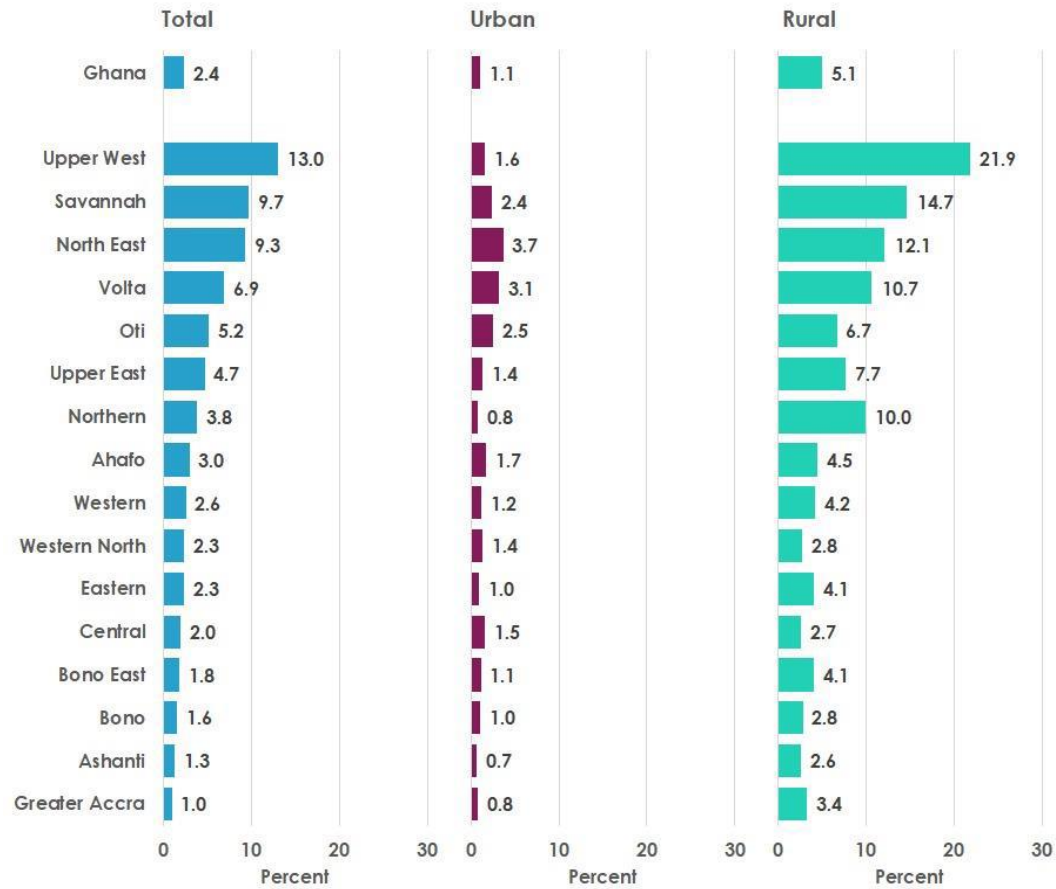
Universal, Equitable Access to Safe and Affordable Drinking Water & Sanitation in Institutions by 2030



Limited or No Service (2021*)

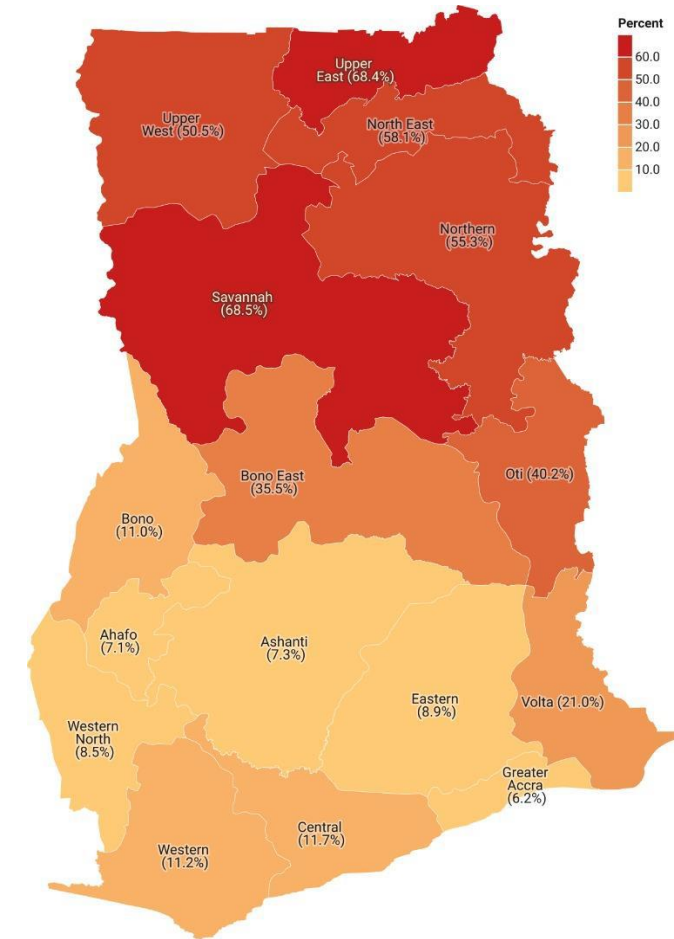
Sanitation	1% (Significant Data Gaps!)	41%
Water	33%	21%
Hygiene	38%	46%

Situation - Snapshots



PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS USING UNIMPROVED HOUSEHOLD TOILET FACILITY BY TYPE OF LOCALITY AND REGION

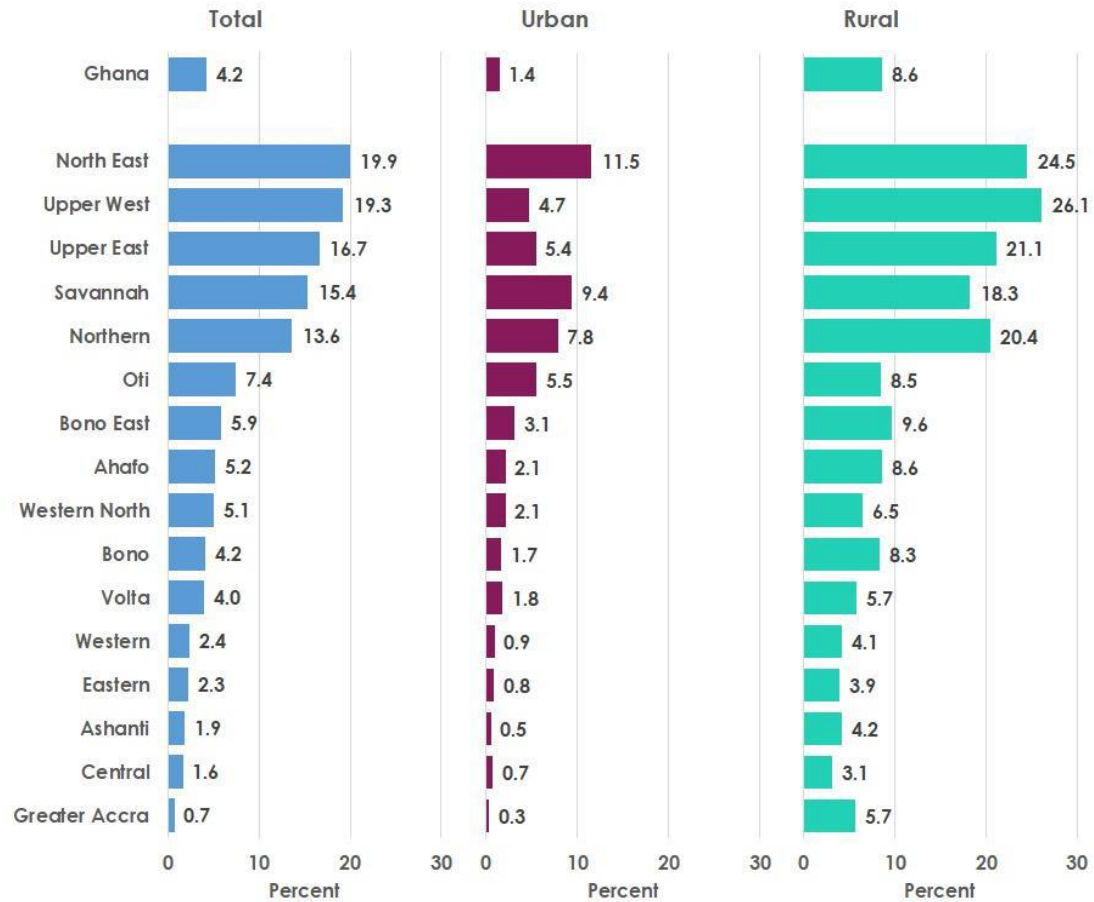
Sources: Population and Housing Census (2020 – 21)



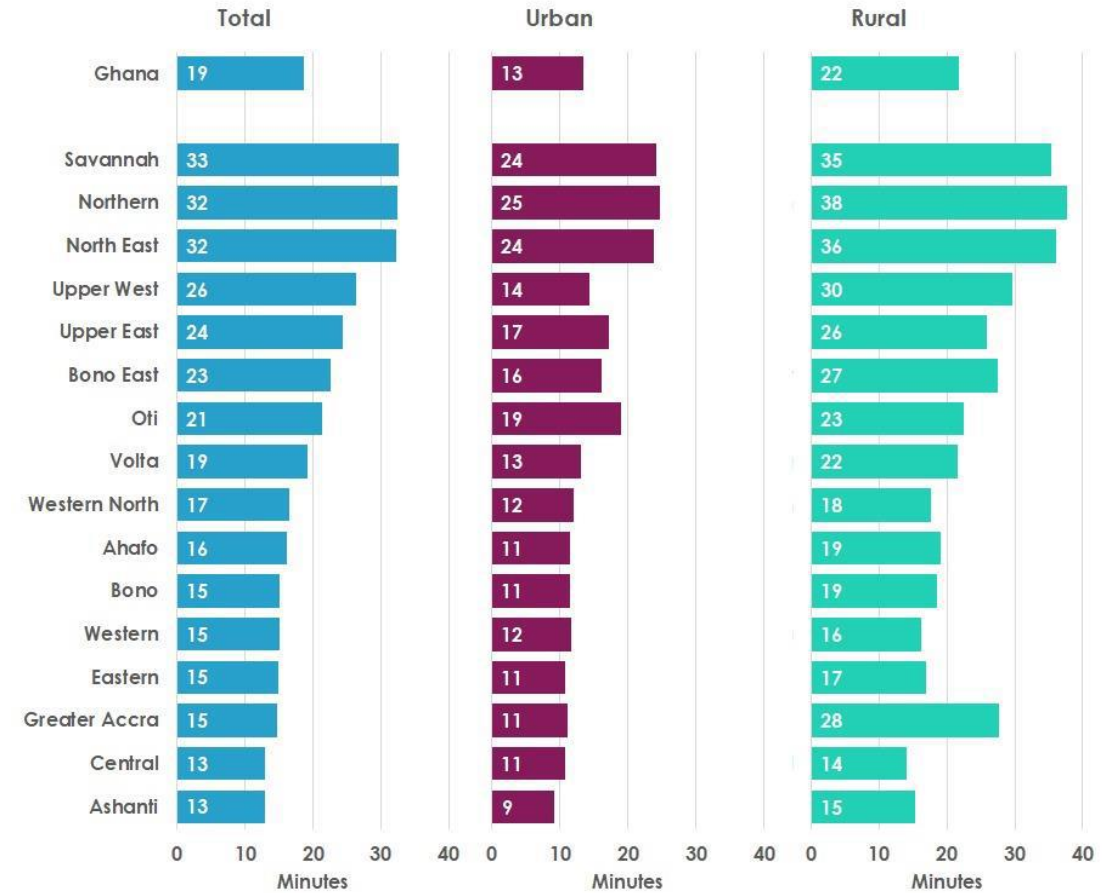
PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT PRACTISE OPEN DEFAECATION BY REGION



Situation - Snapshots

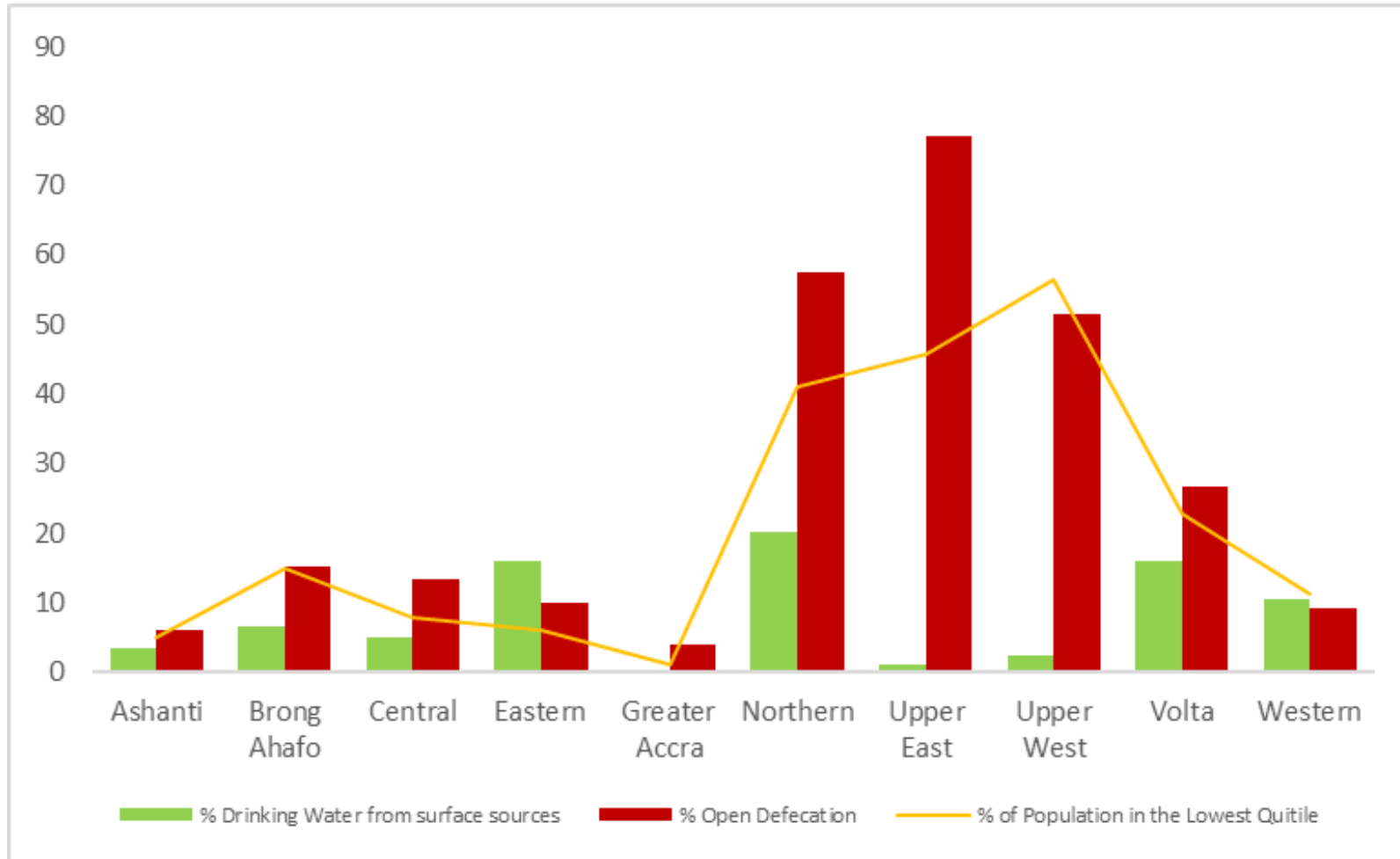


PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH LIMITED SERVICE TO IMPROVED SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER BY TYPE OF LOCALITY AND REGION



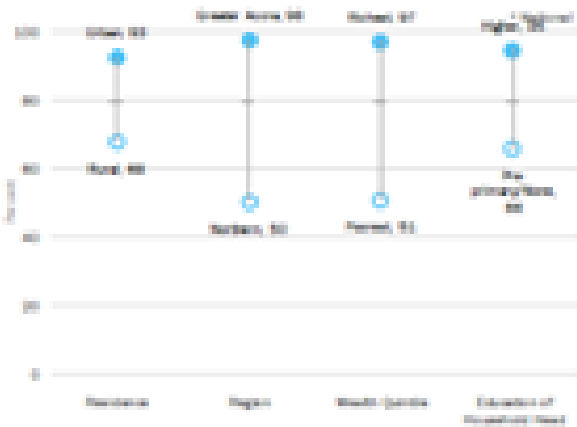
AVERAGE TIME SPENT (MINUTES) BY HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT WATER ON THEIR PREMISES TO ACCESS DRINKING WATER BY TYPE OF LOCALITY AND REGION

Situation - Snapshots



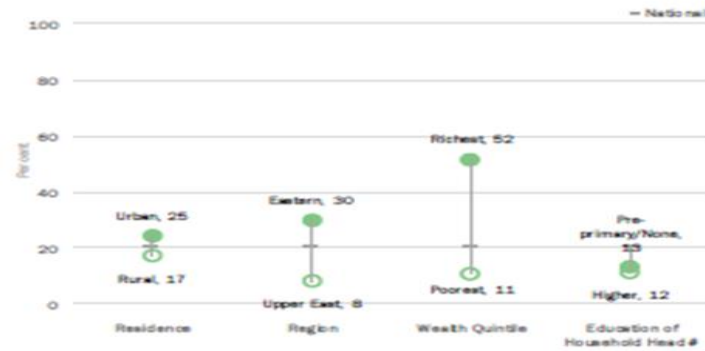
Situation - Snapshots

Basic Drinking Water



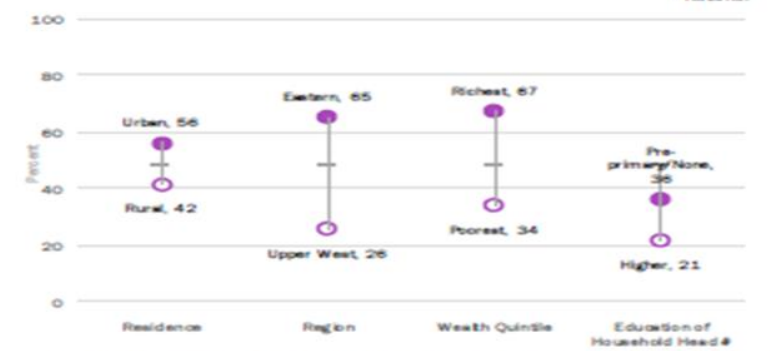
Percent of population using basic drinking water services by background characteristics

Basic Sanitation



Percent of population using basic sanitation services by background characteristics
The highest disparity on Education was found among the JSS/JHS/Middle level at 27

Basic Hygiene (Hand washing)

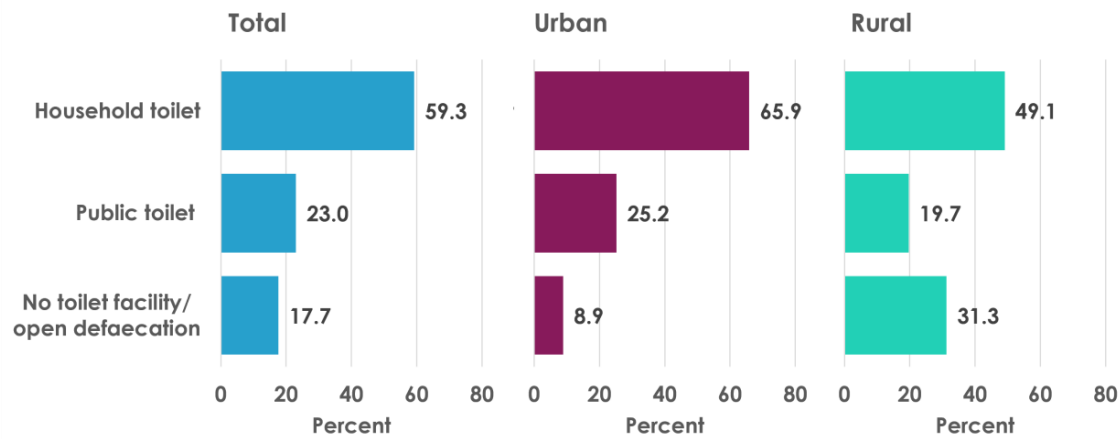


Percent of population using basic hygiene services by background characteristics
The highest disparity on Education was found among the SSS/SHS/Senior level at 66.3%

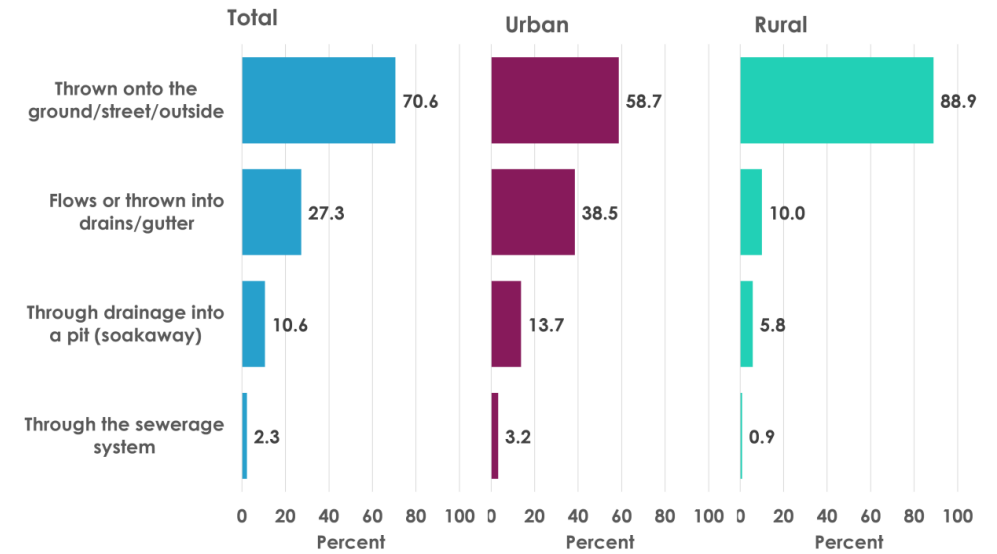
SOME KEY WASH INDICATORS AND VARIOUS EQUITY DIMENSIONS IN GHANA

(Source: Multiple Indicator cluster Survey (MICS, 2018))

Situation - Snapshots



TOILET FACILITY USED BY HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE OF LOCALITY



HOUSEHOLD WASTEWATER DISPOSAL BY METHOD AND TYPE OF LOCALITY

Situation *(including Anecdotal Information)*

Key groups of Ghanaians impacted by multiple dimensions of Vulnerability and Exclusion:

- **WASH Data (Especially Inclusion)?**
- Specific Demographic groups– Children, Adolescents (esp. Girls), Women, Aged - access to financial resources and social roles
- Persons living with a disability
- Low-income individual and households in both rural and urban areas
- People living in Informal settlements
- Persons living with long-term illnesses including HIV/AIDS
- Persons displaced by disasters/ emergencies e.g., Flooding in the Lower Volta Basin, the Crises in the Sahel.
- People living in hard-to-reach/ serve communities
- Some institutions! – Mental Health, Reform Centres.....

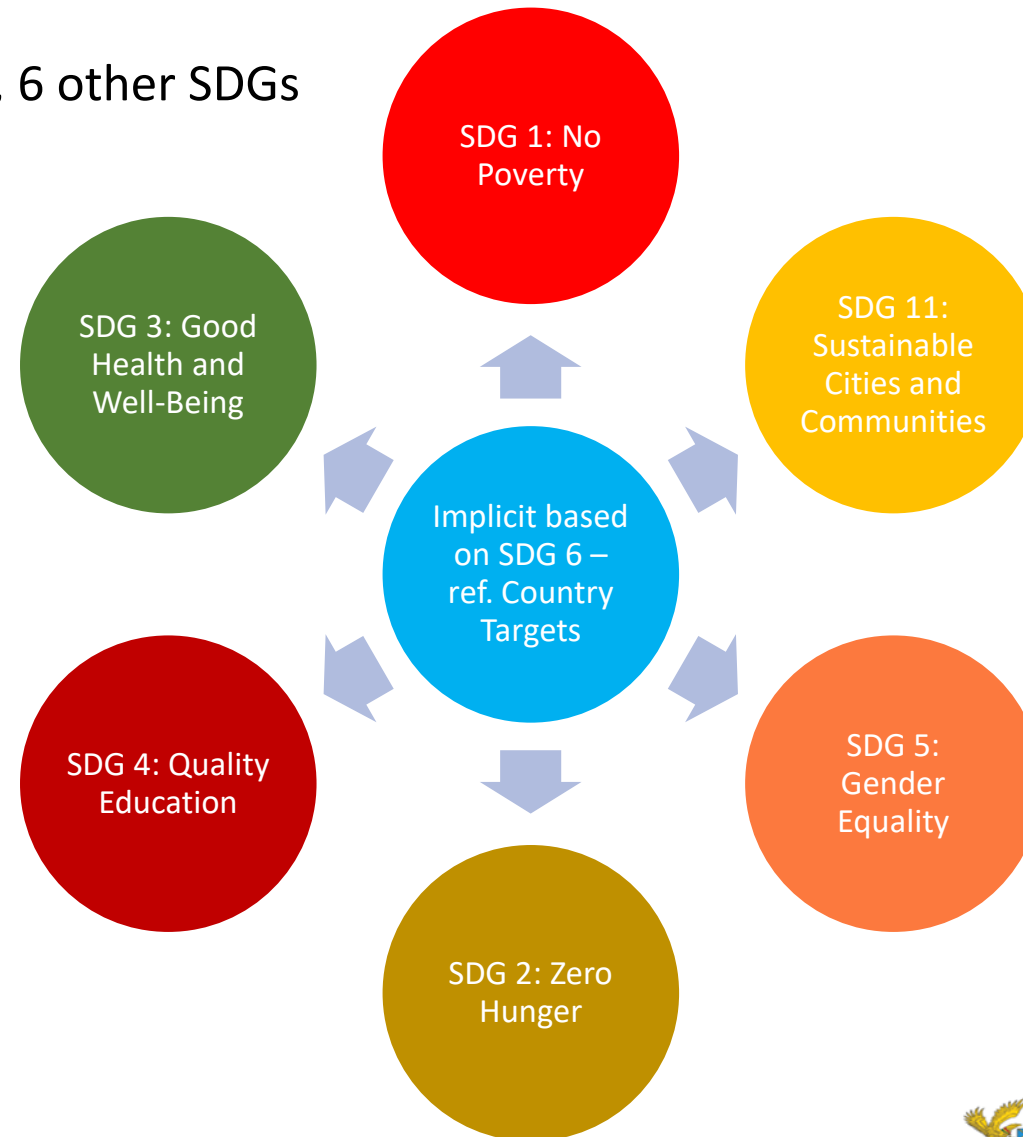
Situation *(including Anecdotal Information)*

Important Initiatives targeting Equity and Inclusion (WASH and Beyond):

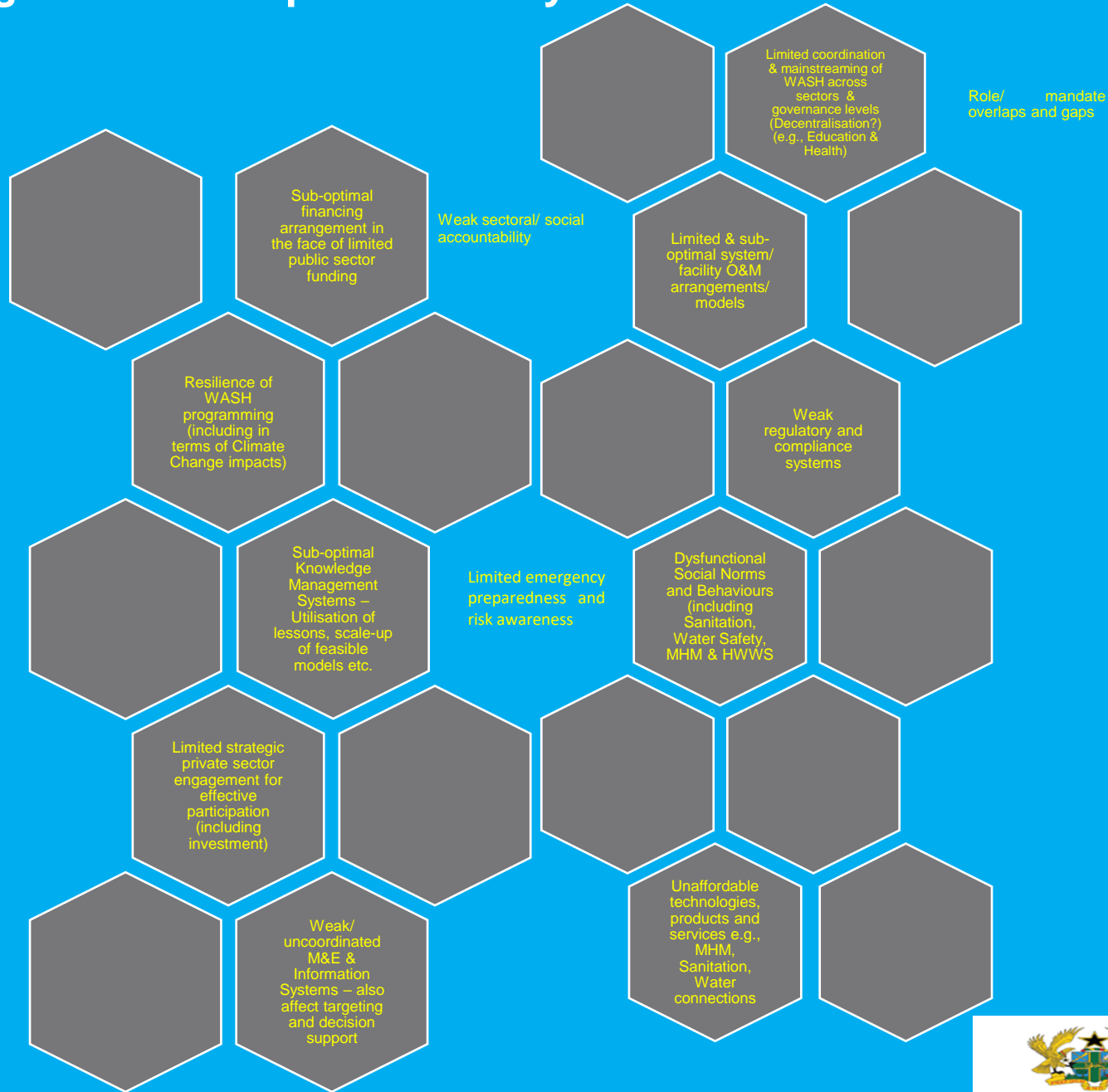
- Sector Policies, Guidelines and Frameworks- NWP (out soon), GWSDP (2021), EPRP (2016), Gender Guidelines??
- Mainstreamed Pro-Poor Initiatives – LICSD (GWL) & CWSA
- Specific Sector Programmes and Projects – BSF, DSF, GAMA/ GKMA, HH4A, Water Safety Campaign etc.
- Studies – Sector Equity Study (2016), Resilience Study (2021)...
- District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF) – important provisions
- National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)
- Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP).....

Situation - Commitment to Equity and inclusion- The SDG Imperative

- It's a rights issue!
- Linked directly to, at least, 6 other SDGs



Situation - Key Programmatic Gaps/Issues- Systems & Services in Ghana (including Infrastructure)



Compare with Drivers and Barriers – Note similarities!

Lessons Learnt (From Ghana and Lessons from other contexts

- Understanding vulnerability and exclusion in Ghana on a continuous basis is important (“finger on the pulse”) – **Data (specially at the operational level & institutions)?**
 - Situation is evolving – not static (Climate Change, Socio-Economic Landscape etc.)
 - Addressing symptoms or main causes
 - Key drivers for vulnerability and exclusion in Ghana operate cyclically – drivers for one reinforcing and increasing the likelihood of the other – highlighting the multidimensional complexity of equity and inclusion
- Tendency to over-play income poverty/ economic factors (slight over-simplification of the issue)– all dimensions are key
- Resilience is key to Equity and Inclusion – systems must cushion the most vulnerable against shocks
- Strengthening information systems is critical – to feed into planning (targeting and decision support e.g., resource allocation) and coordination – **Efficiency of resource allocation and use**
- Sector Financing (to cover Equity and Inclusion) – broad thinking needed
- Possibility of creating marginalisation through decision making structure and other programme approaches – being deliberate and anticipating risks is key).
- Coordinated action (including strategic partnerships!) – Not achieved by chance....

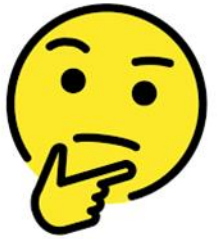


Thoughts to consider - Key Issues/ Questions



- Understanding vulnerability and exclusion in Ghana - “Finger on the pulse”
- Data/ Information systems – functional with appropriate indicators/metrics?
- Planning and targeting mechanisms - especially geared at areas with multiple vulnerabilities?
- Coordinated physical planning considering vulnerabilities and resilience –settlements, Housing & WASH etc. ?
- Financing rationalized in the face of fiscal challenges and reducing external grants – cost recovery, debt, equity, Private Sector Participation (PSP)?
- Optimum use of studies (e.g., Equity Study) and synthesis and scale-up of feasible models & approaches (including infrastructure) , including innovations? - Enhancing service effectiveness and sustainability
- Regulation, Enforcement and Compliance - design specifications (QA), construction quality, key practices.....? – also important for effectiveness and sustainability!

Thoughts to consider - Key Issues/ Questions



- Inter-sectoral collaboration/ coordination – including links with decentralized level, IWRM, CSO networks...?
- Strengthening social accountability Providing citizens with clear measures of legal recourse to seek enforcement of rights related to social protection programmes
- Social Norms – basic sanitation, hand hygiene, water safety, waste disposal, MHM
- Empowerment – including Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes, Participation (e.g. children, gender...)?
- Building on social protection programmes, including enhancing targeting mechanisms?
- Integrated Service provision – linked with livelihoods?
- Enhancing safety nets / social protection should be complementary to WASH, other social services....
- Emergency Preparedness and Response (including coordination)?



Major Take-Away Points

- Equity and Inclusion are a multi-dimensional and cross-sectional issues, which:
 - Need to be mainstreamed into programming at all level (national, regional and decentralize), and consciously addressed.
 - Require coordination across sectors in development planning.
 - Require participatory interventions – entire WASH sector programme cycle and value chain
- Effective, deliberate targeting, and compliance with policy and strategy is necessary.
- Tracking of related outcomes intervention for learning, review of targets and up-scaling of effective approaches is key.
- Social accountability is critical to success.
- There is a clear investment case for equity and inclusion in the provision of social services, including in WASH
- Understanding how the dimensions of equity and inclusion are structured is important effective intervention – for both systemic and service level actions.



Some strategic steps to consider towards achieving Equity and Inclusion in WASH in Ghana





LET'S DISCUSS AND REFLECT ON EQUITY AND INCLUSION
IN WASH!!!

LET'S LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND....

